



The Southeast News

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 11

SEPTEMBER 1967



Joe A. French Begins Ministry In LaGrange

Rev. Joe A. French began his ministry at the United Congregational Christian Church in LaGrange, Ga., on September 1, 1967. In a sense, Mr. French is returning home, for his parents live at Wedowee, Alabama, and most of his immediate family live in East Alabama.

For the past three years, Mr. French has been pastor of the Aelia and Plymouth Churches near Clayton, N. C. Previously, he had served churches in Henderson and Reidsville, N. C., Hunterdale and Norfolk, Va., and in Lanett, Alabama.

During his ministry in the Southern Conference, he served on many boards and committees of the former Southern Convention. During the consultations that united the former Southern Convention of the South, and the Southern Province into the Southern Conference in North Carolina and Virginia, Mr. French was the president of the Southern Convention.

A graduate of Elon College in North Carolina and of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, he has served on the Board of Trustees of Elon College and

(Continued on Page 6)

India Missionary Will Visit In Our Conference

The Rev. John P. Crozier, a United Church of Christ missionary who has worked with the Christian churches in India since 1933, will visit the Southeast Conference October 5-18, 1967.

The Rev. W. Walter Hall, moderator of the East Alabama Association, is working out a schedule for Mr. Crozier in the East Alabama Association churches for October 5-12. Churches in the Association should contact Mr. Hall to arrange a visit from Mr. Crozier.

Mr. Crozier will be speaking after that as follows:

October 13 — Ga.-S. C. Association at Demorest

October 14 — S. Ala.-N. W. Fla. Association at Andalusia, Antioch

October 15 — Central Alabama Association at N. Montgomery Church

October 17 — Montgomery First and Montgomery South Churches

Mr. Crozier's visit is sponsored by the Commission on Our Christian World Mission, Dr. J. H. Dollar, chairman.

Mr. Crozier is director of the International Nasrapur Christian Fellowship. His daughter Judy teaches at a girls' school in Ahmednagar, India.

Missionary From Honduras Visits In Our Area

Mrs. Elise Vargas from Honduras will be speaking in the northern area of our Southeast Conference. Our Christian World Mission Commission is delighted to welcome Mrs. Vargas for most of our churches have had no contact with Honduras, this being a former Evangelical and Reformed mission field.

The tentative schedule for Mrs. Vargas is as follows:

October 1 — Birmingham First

October 2 — Anniston

October 3 — Barnesville

October 4 — Atlanta churches

October 6 — Caddo

(Continued on Page 5)



Letter From Raymond Berry

We are in our new home, known locally as "the Mission House," a place where many of our workers with Indian Americans have lived.

My job here is that of social worker with Indian children, youth, and families on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. This is the largest reservation in South Dakota, and on it we have seven UCC churches. Some of my referrals for casework will come from our pastors and leaders in these churches. However, I will seek also to work closely with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Public Health Service, and Public Welfare. My objective will be to serve families through intensive casework in such a way that they will be led to help themselves, arising somewhat from the utter deprivation which now pervades their lives. This task will be done through personal counseling, guidance, referring to other social service agencies, and urging our Indian Americans to take advantage of the growing number of opportunities for social, economic, and cultural advancement.

In all of this, I do not forget that a strong faith in God through Jesus Christ is the greatest bulwark against family disintegration and even social deprivation itself. The dignity of man and his mission as God's co-worker in bringing about meaningful life is a basic foundation of my social work. I hope to be able to instill hope, courage, and above all, self-respect in the persons with whom I work.

This is going to be an interesting task, and the kind of ministry which I believe in so deeply. In it, I realize

(Continued on Page 5)

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Summer Workers In Our Conference

One of our joys this summer has been the presence of Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of Rev. Carlton C. Johnson of Atlanta, and the Rev. Peter I. Poulter of Stonehouse, England, working in our Southeast Conference.

Both arrived about moving time for the Conference office to its new location, 2684 Clairmont Rd., N. E., Atlanta. From packing to carrying the packages, from dismantling the old office to setting up the new office, they toiled long hours. Elizabeth put all of the Church School literature and all other literature neatly on shelves. She labelled the audio-visuals and neatly stored those. Write in for something and it can be found immediately if we have it in the office.

From the office to the field, Elizabeth went to conduct Vacation Church Schools and to assist a youth caravan. Peter went to preach, visit, counsel, and get acquainted with life in the states.

Peter's itinerary has included churches in Atlanta, Nashville, Pleasant Hill, Cullman, Birmingham, and Montgomery. With warmth of his personality, the cheerfulness with which he entered each task and the faith that he had to share, all were enriched by his presence with them. On Sept. 20 he returns to England and begins his pastorate at Broadway. He graduated from Mansfield College (seminary) last June and eagerly anticipates his ministry there.

Evarts Celebrates

75th Anniversary

The Evarts Congregational Church (UCC) celebrated its 75th anniversary on August 13th. Rev. Clyde Flannery, pastor of the church 1948-50 and now Associate Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, preached the sermon at the morning service. He brought with him Mrs. Flannery and their three daughters; the oldest was born in Evarts.

At the afternoon service the speaker was Mrs. Viola Rainey Cunningham of Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. Mrs. Cunningham is the widow of Rev. Eugene Rainey, pastor of Evarts Church 1937-1945, and greatly beloved by all the Evarts people. Also at the afternoon service letters were read from Rev. George Vincent of Montclair, New Jersey, whose church has been very helpful to Evarts Church through the years; and from two former pastors, Rev. Howard Huntziker and Rev. Collie Seymour. There were also letters from former members and friends, Mrs. H. B. Turner, Miss Helen Dizney, Mrs. W. R. Johnson, Miss Betty Turner, Mrs. N. B. Smith, and Miss Marguerite Davison.

There was special joy in the presence of Rev. Annie Campbell of Robins Parish, Tenn., who brought a group of ladies with her. Dinner was served to about 125 members and friends.

The church was organized in 1892 by Rev. T. M. Higginbotham, then a student at Oberlin Seminary, and the next year a school was opened, Black Mountain Academy, which was supported by the American Missionary Association. All the old-timers around Evarts who have any education receiv-



Town Creek Church

Faces A New Day

Less than ten years ago the Rev. R. M. Waugh and Dr. Guy L. Colbert, with two families, all that was remaining of the Town Creek, Old Liberty Grove Church, realized that the church was about to fall down. Should they try to continue the church? They decided to give it another try.

Today, the church faces a new day. On June 18, 1967, Dr. Colbert, pastor-at-large of N. Alabama Association, preached at the church and licensed Roger Dale Loosier, Banforth Brewington, and Larry Compton to preach. Previously, he had licensed two other young men from the congregation, Roy T. Bain and Thomas T. Gibson, who are now in Vietnam. Dr. Colbert and Mr. Waugh are pictured with the three young men.

The church has a membership now of 61, with 65 now enrolled in Sunday School. During the past year a well has been drilled and two new rest rooms have been added to a recently built auditorium.



REV. CLYDE FLANNERY
MRS. VIOLA RAINNEY CUNNINGHAM

ed their early training at this school. Three people who were children in the church have spent their lives in church vocations: Rev. W. L. Clem was a Congregational minister for 47 years; Col. John A. Turner was an Air Force chaplain for 25 years; and Miss Helen Dizney was a missionary nurse under the American Board for 40 years. All are now retired.

The present pastor, Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, has served the church for nine years, and has had the second longest pastorate in the history of the church. The longest was that of Rev. J. M. Trosper, who served twice for a total of 18 years.

SEC Churches At Work On Christian Education Matters

Recently your Minister of Christian Education met with the Committee on Christian Education at Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga. Although the day was a beautiful and hot Sunday afternoon when most people like to be at the beach or relaxing in the backyard, the committee met for more than two hours, wrestling with problems that sound like those of many churches whose people believe that Christian education is important. One of the specific plans growing out of the meeting was the setting up of a five-session training program for leaders in Christian education, in addition to personal conferences with Mr. Warren Barr, a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School who is assisting Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor.

At Belvidere, Tennessee, Mrs. Melvin Fenner and the Sunday church staff are working, too, on a more creative approach to Christian education.

On September 13 and 14, afternoon and evening, some efforts will be made to help teachers to interpret the scope and objectives of the educational mission of our church and ways the United Church Curriculum seeks to make this mission meaningful.

United Church at Huntsville, under the direction of its new pastor, Rev. James Humphrey, will sponsor, on Saturday, September 15, an area-wide workshop during the morning and afternoon. Areas to be included are: worship on different age levels, art and Christian education, meaning of the Youth Ministry, music, audio-visuals, and a consideration of the first semester theme of the United Church Curriculum, "Growing As a Christian."

What is your church (or your area) doing to raise the level of Christian education? Do let us know.

Pisgah Church To Rebuild

The Congregational Church at Pisgah, Alabama, has sold its building and will build a new sanctuary with several classrooms on the same location. Luther E. Hollaway, a native of the area and a teacher in the public schools, is serving as pastor. This church is a member of the East Alabama Association, but is located in North Alabama.

UCC Caravan Team Works At Plymouth Church, Charleston

Five young people from various parts of the United States participated in a Vacation Church School and community recreation program at Plymouth Church, Charleston, South Carolina, during the past summer.

Four of these youths were members of a Caravan Team recruited by the Specialized Ministries effort and trained at the Voluntary Service Center, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. These young people gave five weeks of their summer, paying much of their own expenses, to work in much needed areas, as well as another ten days for training and de-briefing. The fifth person working in Charleston was Miss Elizabeth Johnson, who was a Student Summer Service Worker with the Southeast Conference.

In his report to the Specialized Ministries staff, Rev. John Enwright, pastor of Plymouth Church, indicated that the team gave Plymouth people a "much-needed shot in the arm." In addition to their work in the local church and community, the team led a Youth Workshop in Savannah, helping the young people in the churches of that area to come to grips with their witness.

Perhaps some SEC youth would like to participate in similar efforts in 1968. Write to the SEC Minister of Christian Education for details.

National Council In Atlanta

The General Board of the National Council of Churches meets in Atlanta September 14-15, 1967. The Board is composed of representatives (270) of 34 Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox communions. This is the first time the General Board has met in this area in the South.

Dr. Arthur Fleming is president of the Council. The guest speaker for Thursday's luncheon is Dr. David Stowe, Associate General Secretary for Overseas Ministries. Dr. Stowe was formerly a missionary to China and later a Secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries.

The Georgia Council of Churches, under the direction of Rev. Edward A. Driscoll, Executive Secretary, will be sharing in the responsibility of this meeting.

Camp And Conference Consultation To Be Held

Growing out of the concerns of many of our people regarding summer programming, a Camp and Conference Consultation and Training will be held in the Southeast Conference. Scheduled for Saturday, October 21, through Monday, October 23, the sessions will be led by a team headed by Rev. Edward L. Schlingman and Miss Ethel Shellenberger, the "Mr." and "Miss" of summer programming of the United Church of Christ, assisted by Miss Elizabeth Brown and Mrs. Paul Syler.

Particular attention will be given to the "ifs" and "whats" of camp-site development, financing the summer program, off-site camping for senior highs and young adults, crafts in camping, re-examination of camping philosophy.

Although notices have gone out to some people, it is possible that there are others not included in the mailing who would also like to attend. Cost for the session, which will be held at Eatonton, Georgia, is \$14 per person, including board, room and linens. Address inquiries or registrations to Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

Moulton, Jones Chapel

On Sunday, June 18, the pastor of Jones Chapel at Moulton, Alabama, Rev. R. M. Waugh, presented a check for \$200 to Dr. Guy L. Colbert to pay off the grant mortgage held by the Church Building Society since 1928. Dr. Colbert forwarded the check to Mr. John E. Morse in New York to pay in full this grant mortgage.

Several of our churches in the Southeast Conference are paying these old grant mortgages and this helps many new churches to get underway. Our appreciation to the pastor, Mr. Waugh, and to the members of Jones Chapel.



Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Hughes Dies In Scottsboro, Ala.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Hughes, widow of the late Rev. James H. Hughes of Pisgah, Alabama, passed away at Jackson County Hospital, Scottsboro, Ala., August 15, 1967.

Memorial services for Mrs. Hughes were conducted the following day by Rev. Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large, N. Alabama Association, and Rev. L. E. Hollaway, pastor of the Congregational Christian Church of Pisgah. Burial was in Pisgah cemetery.

Mrs. Hughes, born January 10, 1876, in Chambers County, Alabama, was married to Rev. James H. Hughes on April 9, 1894. His death on March 28, 1963, occurred just a few days before they would have celebrated their 69th anniversary.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Hughes was the oldest member of the Pisgah Church, and one of the oldest active church members in the East Alabama Association. From an early age she was interested in the affairs of the church and was a faithful and devoted participant.

Her long and fruitful life was an inspiration and blessing to her husband, who pastored churches in East Alabama Association for more than fifty years before his retirement.

Mrs. Hughes is survived by three daughters: Miss Iva Hughes and Mrs. Mabel Miles, both of Pisgah, Ala., and Mrs. Lura Hargis of Prattville, Ala.; one son, John H. Hughes of Pisgah, Ala.; one brother, J. W. Chewning of Lanett, Ala.; thirteen grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Revival At Lanett, Alabama

Revival meeting was held at Lanett Church August 20-21, 1967. The guest speaker was the Rev. John M. Permar of Graham, N. C. In addition to serving several very successful pastorates, one of which extended over twenty years, Mr. Permar has held countless evangelistic campaigns. He and his wife are good musicians and have done special singing in many of the meetings.

W. Walter Hall is pastor of the Lanett Church.

Religious Medals Awarded At Belvidere



This group of 11 members of Boy Scout Troop 460 received God and Country awards during worship services at the United Church of Christ at Belvidere, Tenn., troop sponsor. From left are Scouts Tim Knapper, Johnny Bruce, Greg Zimmerman, Gary Warmbrod, Jimmy Westbrook, and Tommy Zimmerman; Fred Knapper, institutional representative; Scouts Bobby Bruce, Charles Knapper, Richard Zimmerman, David Zimmerman, and David Williams. The presentation was made by the Rev. Melvin Fenner, left rear, pastor of the church. The Scoutmaster is Mack Westbrook and Allen Williams is assistant.

South Association Holds Lay Meeting

The South Alabama - Northwest Florida Association Lay Life and Work meeting, held at First Church, Andalusia, Alabama on July 30th from 2:00 p. m. until 5:00 p. m., was a good fellowship meeting. Attendance was as follows:

Andalusia, First, 19; Andalusia, Antioch, 11; Andalusia, New Home, 3; Baker, Good Hope, 7; Blackwood, 13.

Mr. Arthur Wallace gave the opening devotions, using Romans 12:1. He explained the meaning of the words "Conformed," "Transformed," and "Renewing." Study, listening and meditating were suggested as means of renewing the mind. Mr. Wallace also served as chairman of the whole program.

Rev. W. R. (Andy) Anderson, host pastor, gave welcoming words.

The Andalusia, Antioch Church presented the skit, "Our Family Tree."

Mrs. Lula Trawick spoke on the Material Aid Program, stressing that all churches do something for this program.

The Blackwood Church presented the skit, "With Heart — With Mind," pro-

moting the Family Thank Offering.

Mrs. Margaret Adams gave a devotional service from the program booklet, "This Is Your Faith."

Mrs. Arthur Wallace spoke concerning the Our Christian World Mission program.

The host church served refreshments during the fellowship hour.

Blackwood CC Church

From the July 23, 1967 church bulletin we read that the church has just bought a mimeographing machine and that Sunday bulletins will be used again. Homecoming services were held on this date and the revival services also began. Rev. John E. Rhodes of Phenix City, Ala., was the guest minister for the week.

Rev. and Mrs. Otto Culpepper began their ministry at the church on October 1, 1966, and have continued their joint ministry in a wonderful way among the people.

During the past twelve months the church purchased 50 chairs and draperies for the Sunday School rooms. Three rooms in the parsonage have been painted and several floors have been covered.

New Hope Church, Clio, Alabama, Has Homecoming

New Hope Congregational Church of Clio, Alabama, held its annual homecoming July 9, 1967, with the Rev. W. R. (Andy) Anderson as guest speaker for the morning service.

A large group enjoyed the occasion. There were many people visiting here from out of town, and many from other churches. The day was a great success. Days like this strengthen the relationship of man to man, and of man to God.

The week following homecoming was revival week, with Rev. Anderson preaching each evening at 8:00.

The New Hope Church group, and others in this community, enjoyed the Andersons and they left us with the feeling that a great work had been done and much had been accomplished.

Letter From . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

how much of my work depends upon the earnest prayers, contributions, and moral support of local congregations. Churches should remember that it is they who make it possible for me to be here. Without OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION, this ministry would close down today. We cannot let this happen so long as any of our brothers are living in one-room shacks with dirt floors and eating beans as their main diet.

I cannot possibly describe the deep love I have for my native Southland. The ties that bind our hearts together span these many miles and we continue to feel very much a part of all the people with whom we have labored in love there. Shirley, Bonnie, and Paul join me in greeting you, requesting your prayers for our service.

Missionary . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

October 7 — N. Alabama Association at Haleyville

October 8 — Cullman, 11 a. m.; Birmingham, St. Johns, p. m.

October 10 — Ala.-Tenn. Association, Nashville First Church

October 11 — Nashville Churches at Brockmeade Church

October 12 — First Church, Chattanooga

October 13 — First Church, Knoxville

October 14 — Pleasant Hill Community Church

October 15 — Crossville, First

Valley P. F. Holds Summer Rally

On June 22 and 23 the Valley Pilgrim Fellowship held its summer rally at Lowell Church. The rally started with devotion, singing, and a short business meeting.

Our guest speaker for this occasion, Rev. Horace Sills, presented a delightful program on our theme, "The Seven Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church." Questions on his talk were asked by the young people present.

Lunch was served at the host church. A presentation and discussion period on the seven sacraments was next given by representatives of the various churches.

This being a two-day rally, the PF's of the various churches took part in the Sunday worship service. Our youth choir sang a special on this occasion.

—Sandra Backstrom,
Publicity Chairman,
Valley P. F.

The Van Cleave Scholarship

The first recipient of the Van Cleave Scholarship, Miss Jennifer Morgan, has been an outstanding student at Southern Union during her freshman year. She participated in many of the college activities and was initiated into Phi Theta Kappa. She had a cumulative point average for the year of 3.39.

This fall Miss Morgan will continue her education under the Van Cleave Scholarship. Furthermore, a promising freshman will be selected to receive the second annual scholarship.

Those who have pledged to the Van Cleave Scholarship, and others who may be interested in helping outstanding young people receive a college education, should mail your contributions to the Alumni Association, Southern Union State Junior College, Wadley, Alabama 36276.

Rev. Lawrence M. Upton

Memorial services for the Rev. Lawrence M. Upton, United Church of Christ expert in development of non-profit housing, were held Sept. 1 at First Congregational Church, Montclair, N. J.

Mr. Upton, 52, died Tuesday, Aug. 29, of a heart attack while vacationing at Deering Conference Center.



DR. HAROLD N. SKIDMORE

Dr. Skidmore Succeeded By Rev. Don A. Bundy

The Rev. Don Albert Bundy, chaplain at Research Hospital and Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri, has been named secretary of the pension boards of the United Church of Christ. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Harold N. Skidmore, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., who retires.

Mr. Bundy began his work in New York on September 1st as secretary of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers, the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, and the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief. On Jan. 1, 1968, he will also become secretary of the Board of Pensions and Relief of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

(Continued on Page 6)



REV. DON ALBERT BUNDY

General Synod Meets In Cincinnati, June 22-29, 1967

The Rev. Gibson I. Daniels, pastor of Saugatuck UCC, Westport, Conn., was elected moderator of the United Church of Christ for the biennium of 1967-69, and to preside at the 1969 General Synod. He succeeds Dr. Hollis F. Price.

For the first time in the life of the United Church of Christ, a Negro was elected to one of the top executive positions. The Rev. Joseph H. Evans, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Chicago, Ill., was selected secretary of the denomination to fill the vacancy left by retirement of the Rev. Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, who has served since the organization of the United Church.

Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg of Two Rivers, Wis., was elected by the Executive Council to be its chairman. This is the first time a woman has served in this position.

A total of 703 delegates attended—341 ministerial and 362 lay. More than 2,000 people, however, attended.

The delegates voted a base budget of \$10,600,000 for 1968, plus an additional million for Breakthrough. The delegates were assured that Peace Priority Program would receive at least \$45,000 to support its activities in 1968.

In other actions, delegates adopted a resolution supporting the right of "selective conscientious objection" to participation in particular wars and a resolution on Vietnam. The latter resolution called for a "serious reappraisal" of the bombing of North Vietnam and for both United States and North Vietnam governments "at the same time" to stop sending additional troops into South Vietnam.

Communion Cups Available

The Southeast Conference office has on hand 112 Communion cups which should fit into any holder. If any church needs all or part of these, make your desire known by writing to The Southeast Conference, Box 29882, Atlanta, Ga. 30329. There is no charge for these cups. WJA



WAR'S LEGACY: Middle East refugee children receive morning meal in one of many refugee camps established to care for the thousands left homeless by the recent war. Church World Service is appealing for \$1,000,000,000.00 for the refugees among U. S. Protestant and Orthodox churches. (UNWRA Photo)

Congregations of the Southeast Conference are urged to receive offerings to help provide food, clothing and household supplies. Offerings should be sent to the Southeast Conference, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329, designated for Middle East Relief.

Skidmore . . .

(Continued from Page 5)

Mr. Bundy's chief responsibilities will be to aid ministers and widows of ministers whose retirement income is inadequate and to provide relief for ministers and their families in emergencies.

Mr. Bundy has had specialized training and experience in medical and personal problems, receiving clinical training at University Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia and Memorial Hospital, Richmond, Va. He had previously served as pastor of United Church of Christ, Rochester, Minn. He is a native of Norwich, N. Y., and a graduate of Oberlin College and Hartford Seminary.

Dr. Skidmore has been secretary of the Pension Board since 1960. He has been active in Church Pensions Conference.

He served as superintendent of the Michigan Conference from 1941 to 1960. Born in Oldbury, England, he grew up in Michigan where his father was pastor of mission churches. He

attended Olivet College and Oberlin College, from which he received A. B. and B. D. degrees. Honorary degrees were given him by Olivet and Defiance Colleges. He was pastor of First Church, Holliston, Mass., from 1926-1931, and of South Church, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1931-1941.

Dr. and Mrs. Skidmore will make their home in Bantam, Conn., after his retirement.

The Pension Boards serve 3170 retired ministers and lay persons and widows. Membership in the funds includes 8,256 ministers of churches and lay people employed by churches.

Joe A. French . . .

(Continued from Page 1) of Southern Union College at Wadley, Ala. Mrs. French has been teaching in North Carolina and has now accepted a teaching position in LaGrange City School System.

Mr. and Mrs. French have two daughters, Mrs. Harold Moser and Agnes French.